

Whistleblower Protection Laws

A Federal employee with authority to take, direct others to take, recommend or approve any personnel action must not use that authority to take or fail to take, or threaten to take or fail to take, a personnel action against an employee or applicant because of disclosure of information by that individual that is reasonably believed to evidence violations of law, rule or regulation; gross mismanagement; gross waste of funds; an abuse of authority; or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, unless disclosure of such information is specifically prohibited by law and such information is specifically required by Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or the conduct of foreign affairs.

Retaliation against an employee or applicant for making a protected disclosure is prohibited by 5 U.S.C. 2302(b)(8). If you believe that you have been the victim of whistleblower retaliation, you may file a written complaint (Form OSC-11) with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, 1730 M Street, NW., Suite 218, Washington, DC 20036-4505, or online through the OSC Web site at <http://www.osc.gov>.

Retaliation for Engaging in Protected Activity

A Federal agency cannot retaliate against an employee or applicant because that individual exercised his or her rights under any of the Federal antidiscrimination or whistleblower protection laws listed above. If you believe that you are the victim of retaliation for engaging in protected activity, you must follow, as appropriate, the procedures described in the Antidiscrimination Laws and Whistleblower Protection Laws sections or, if applicable, the administrative or negotiated grievance procedures in order to pursue any legal remedy.

Disciplinary Actions

Under the existing laws, each agency retains the right, where appropriate, to discipline a Federal employee for conduct that is inconsistent with Federal antidiscrimination and whistleblower protection laws up to and including removal. If OSC has initiated an investigation under 5 U.S.C. 1214, however, according to 5 U.S.C. 1214(f), agencies must seek approval from the Special Counsel to discipline employees for, among other activities, engaging in prohibited retaliation. Nothing in the No FEAR Act alters existing laws or permits an agency to take unfounded disciplinary action against a Federal

employee or to violate the procedural rights of a Federal employee who has been accused of discrimination.

Additional Information

For further information regarding the No FEAR Act regulations, refer to 5 CFR part 724, as well as the appropriate offices within the ABMC (e.g., EEO or Personnel and Administration). Additional information regarding Federal antidiscrimination, whistleblower protection and retaliation laws can be found on the EEOC Web site at <http://www.eeoc.gov> and on the OSC Web site at <http://www.osc.gov>.

Existing Rights Unchanged

Pursuant to section 205 of the No FEAR Act, neither the Act nor this notice creates, expands or reduces any rights otherwise available to any employee, former employee or applicant under the laws of the United States, including the provisions of law specified in 5 U.S.C. 2302(d).

Theodore Gloukhoff,

Director, Personnel and Administration.

[FR Doc. E8-29405 Filed 12-11-08; 8:45 am]

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ARCTIC RESEARCH COMMISSION

Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Arctic Research Commission will hold its 88th meeting in San Francisco, CA on Dec 14-19, 2008. The Business Session, open to the public, will convene at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec 16, 2008 in San Francisco, CA. An Executive Session will follow adjournment of the Business Session.

The Agenda items include:

- (1) Call to order and approval of the Agenda.
- (2) Approval of the Minutes of the 87th Meeting.
- (3) Commissioners and Staff Reports.
- (4) Discussion of USARC Goals and Activities.

The focus of the meeting will be reports and updates on programs and research projects affecting the Arctic.

Any person planning to attend this meeting who requires special accessibility features and/or auxiliary aids, such as sign language interpreters, must inform the Commission in advance of those needs.

Contact Person for More Information:
John Farrell, Executive Director, U.S.

Arctic Research Commission, 703-525-0111 or TDD 703-306-0090.

John Farrell,

Executive Director.

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BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Sunshine Act Meeting

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, December 9, 2008; 1 p.m.-2:15 p.m.

PLACE: Cohen Building, Room 3360, 330 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20237.

CLOSED MEETING: The members of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) will meet in a special session to review and discuss budgetary issues relating to U.S. Government-funded non-military international broadcasting. This meeting is closed because if open it likely would either disclose matters that would be properly classified to be kept secret in the interest of foreign policy under the appropriate executive order (5 U.S.C. 552b.(c)(1)) or would disclose information the premature disclosure of which would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed agency action. (5 U.S.C. 552b.(c)(9)(B)) In addition, part of the discussion will relate solely to the internal personnel and organizational issues of the BBG or the International Broadcasting Bureau. (5 U.S.C. 552b.(c)(2) and (6))

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Persons interested in obtaining more information should contact Timi Nickerson Kenealy at (202) 203-4545.

Dated: December 9, 2008.

Timi Nickerson Kenealy,

Acting Legal Counsel.

[FR Doc. E8-29551 Filed 12-10-08; 11:15 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

(A-475-818)

Certain Pasta from Italy: Notice of Extension of Final Results of Antidumping Duty Changed Circumstances Review

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 12, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eric B. Greynolds, AD/CVD Operations,